

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 11**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: May 6, 1999      TIME: 6:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Heavy rainfall of two to nine inches has been reported over May 4-6 in the Rolette County area. Although Belcourt Lake Dam in the city of Belcourt appears to be structurally sound, the water level of the dam is being closely monitored by federal, state, tribal and local officials. Local officials report that dam water levels were three feet from the top of the embankment. Water is flowing through the dam spillway in a controlled manner. Officials are also monitoring the Ox Creek, which flows past a medical facility located in the city of Belcourt. Minor flooding has occurred along the creek in the city.

In the city of Rolette, there are numerous reports of flooded basements and of sewer backup. Local officials are sandbagging lift stations to help relieve some of the sewer backup problems.

Rolette County officials reported that the heavy rainfall caused inundation of roads, including U.S. Highway 281 at two locations near Belcourt. In addition, up to 40 township and county roads were flooded as a result of the May 4-6 storm and one-half of these roads are still under water. Three road washouts have occurred. Remaining roads are in soft or saturated condition, making driving hazardous in areas. Road crews are flagging or closing roads as needed. Another area of concern includes Upsilon Lake in north central Rolette County, which rose 12 inches in a 24-hour period.

Heavy rain that fell in Rolette County will impact the Souris River Basin but will not affect the Devils Lake Basin, according to the N.D. State Water Commission.

4. RESOURCES:  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Representatives of the N.D. State Water Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are providing technical assistance. BIA officials have been monitoring the Belcourt Lake Dam and will be participating in an inspection on Friday of Gordon Lake and Belcourt Lake with representatives of the State Water Commission and Rolette County. In addition, the USACE conducted an inspection of a dike constructed to protect the medical facility in Belcourt.

Local traffic has been detoured around a short segment of U.S. Highway 5/281 through Belcourt at Ox Creek in an effort to keep traffic moving efficiently.

The USACE has released 10,000 sandbags from its inventory at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton at Devils Lake for use in flood-fight efforts in Rolette County.

A flood preparedness meeting was held May 6 in Belcourt with representatives of IA, Turtle

Mountain Tribal Council, Rolette County and Turtle Mountain emergency management offices, Turtle Mountain tribal council, the Rolette County Sheriff, tribal law enforcement and tribal Housing Authority. Officials developed plans to address potential flooding along Ox Creek. Officials also are conducting a public information campaign directed at alleviating the public's concern about the integrity of the Belcourt Lake dam.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: BIA, USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers, State DOT staff and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director